Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-03 H-01 INR-10 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 PA-01 CTME-00 AID-05 SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00 SP-02 SOE-02 OMB-01 DOE-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EUR-12 NEA-11 OIC-02 MCE-00 NRC-05 ACDA-12 XMB-02 /172 W

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O 121217Z JUN 78 FM USMISSION GENEVA TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0713 INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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USMTN

ACTION STR PASS ELECTRICALLY FOR AMBASSADOR STRAUSS STR PASS CODEL

E.O.11652:N/A

TAGS: MTN, ETRD, JA

SUBJECT: IMPROVEMENTS IN JAPAN'S INDUSTRIAL TARIFF OFFER:

SUMMARY

1. JAPAN FORMALLY CONVEYED TO USMTN DELEGATION ON JUNE 12 ITS DETAILED RESPONSE TO U.S. REQUESTS FOR IMPROVEMENTS IN JAPAN'S INDUSTRIAL TARIFFS OFFER. THE 64-PAGE LIST, INFORMALLY GIVEN TO AMBASSADOR WOLFF ON JUNE 10 IN PARIS BY DIRECTOR GENERAL TESHIMA OF MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND CONVEYED ON JUNE 12 BY TESHIMA TO AMBASSADOR MCDONALD IN GENEVA, CDNTAINS A COVERING NOTE WITH CONDITIONS (SEPTEL). JAPANESE REQUESTED LIST BE KEPT STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL FOR TIME BEING.

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2. JAPANESE STATED THEY OFFER IMPROVEMENTS ON 380 OF THE 424 TARIFF ITEMS WHICH U.S. REQUESTED IMPROVEMENTS, A 90 PERCENT POSITIVE RESPONSE ON A LINE ITEM BASIS AND 84 PERCENT POSITIVE RESPONSE ON A TRADE BASIS (1976). THEY ALSO PROVIDED DETAILED TABLES COMPARING TARIFF LEVELS BETWEEN JAPAN AND THE U.S. SHOWING, INTER ALIA, FOR ALL INDUSTRIAL ITEMS EXCEPT PETROLEUM, DUTY FREE AND DUTIABLE

TRADE, THAT WITH IMPROVED OFFERS JAPAN'S AVERAGE TARIFF ON IMPORTS OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS FROM THE U.S. WOULD FALL TO 3.4 PERCENT (FROM 7.5 PERCENT BASE RATE) COMPARED TO 3.6 BY U.S. (FROM 6.5 PERCENT BASE RATE). JAPAN CALCULATES TRADE WEIGHTED BILATERAL OVERALL DEPTH OF CUT FROM ITS BASE RATES WITH IMPROVED OFFER AS 55.3 PERCENT COMPARED TO 44.6 PERCENT BY U.S. OFFER. (DETAILED IMPROVEMENT LIST AND TABLES HANDCARRIED TO WASHINGTON BY KELLY.)

- 3. JAPANESE IMPROVEMENTS INVOLVE LESS THAN A PERCENTAGE POINT REDUCTION ON MANY ITEMS; MORE SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENTS ARE OFFERED ON MANY OTHER ITEMS. VERY FEW ITEMS, CONCENTRATED IN ORES AND METALS AND A FEW OTHER CHEMICALS, ARE OFFERED AT FREE AND THOSE GENERALLY HAVE CURRENT FREE APPLIED RATES. PREVIOUSLY EXCLUDED ITEMS SUCH AS AIRCRAFT, AIRCRAFT ENGINES AND AIRCRAFT PARTS, NUCLEAR REACTORS AND SHOTGUNS AND AMMUNITION NOW RECEIVE FORMULA CUTS. NO IMPROVEMENTS ARE OFFERED ON SUCH KEY ITEMS AS KRAFT PAPER AND PAPERBOARD, ALUMINUM, LEATHER, AND INTEGRATED CIRCUITS. IMPROVEMENTS ON CERTAIN OTHER KEY ITEMS ARE AS FOLLOWS (PREVIOUS OFFER IN PARENTHESES):
- (A) COLOR FILM AND PHOTOGRAPHIC PAPER 8 PERCENT (16 PERCENT);
- (B) COATED PAPERBOARD 5.1 PERCENT (5.8 PERCENT) LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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- (C) COMPUTERS 7.2 PERCENT (8.9 PERCENT);
- (D) CERTAIN COMPUTER PERIPHERALS 10 PERCENT (13.8 PERCENT):
- (E) GOLF CLUBS 3.6 PERCENT (4.8 PERCENT);
- (F) COPPER FOIL 6.5 PERCENT (7.2 PERCENT).
- 4. DETAILED NEGOTIATIONS WILL BEGIN IMMEDIATELY WITH JAPANESE TEAM HEADED BY DIRECTOR GENERAL TAKAHASHI OF MITI. USMTN DELEGATION INTENDS TO PUSH HARD FOR IMPROVEMENTS FOR KRAFT PAPER, PHOTOGRAPHIC FILM AND PAPER, INTEGRATED CIRCUITS, COMPUTERS AND PERIPHERALS, AIRCRAFT SECTOR (OBJECTIVE IS ZERO DUTIES), AND A SELECTIVE NUMBER OF OTHER ITEMS OF KNOWN PRIORITY WHERE THERE IS SIGNIFICANT TRADE POTENTIAL. WE WOULD APPRECIATE IMMEDIATE GUIDANCE. MCDONALD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 jan 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: TARIFF SCHEDULES, AMENDMENTS

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 12 jun 1978 Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014 Disposition Event: Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978GENEVA08870
Document Source: CORE

Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A

Expiration:

Film Number: D780244-1197

Format: TEL

From: GENEVA USMTN Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780671/aaaacixn.tel

Line Count: 113 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8ed2568b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ACTION STR

Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a

Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Reference: n/a Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags:

Review Date: 05 may 2005 Review Event: Review Exemptions: n/a

Review Media Identifier: Review Release Date: N/A Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 2398236 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: IMPROVEMENTS IN JAPAN\'S INDUSTRIAL TARIFF OFFER: SUMMARY

TAGS: ETRD, JA, MTN

To: STATE Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8ed2568b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

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